

Sauk River Watershed District

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Regular Meeting

Approved

August 21, 2007

President Kutter called the meeting to order. Managers present: Coughlin, Hetland, Hensley, Kral, Kuseske, Kutter, Rettig, Robinson and Mostad. Others in attendance were Osakis Lakeshore Owners Robert Loften and Larry Baufield; Jerry VonKorfff, Attorney; Noah Czech, Permit Inspector; Adam Hjelm, Education Coordinator; Lynn Nelson, BMP Coordinator and Starla Arceneau, Recording Secretary.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The proposed agenda was reviewed. A motion was made by Manager Hetland to approve the agenda with additions. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The minutes of the July 17th, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve the July 17th minutes. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The minutes of the August 7th, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Manager Kral made a motion to approve the August 7th minutes with minor correction for verification. Manager Hetland seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Manager Coughlin made a motion to approve checks 16668 thru 16713. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Brent Johnson from Houston Engineering was unable to attend the meeting to review the Eden Valley Project. After a brief discussion Manager Robinson made a motion to table until the September 4th regular meeting. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The board requested that the Engineer identify the focus of the Eden Valley Project, whether it's flooding, water quality or cosmetic.

The regular meeting was recessed for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget Final Hearing. President Kutter asked for public comments. After no public comments Manager Rettig made a motion to close the public hearing. Manager Coughlin seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. The regular meeting was re-opened. Manager Robinson then made a motion to approve the 2007-2008 budget. Manager Mostad seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Noah Czech reported that an inspection report and pictures were sent to Tom Anderson, Douglas County Ditch Inspector informing him of a lack of a buffer strips along JD2. Anderson informed the District via email that a letter was sent informing the landowner that a buffer strip must be installed. Manager Mostad made a motion to have the District Attorney contact the Ditch Inspector to request the buffer strip will be installed as soon as possible. Manager Rettig seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Adam Hjelm and Lynn Nelson gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Judicial Ditch 2 Sediment Ponds. Items that the Managers need to address were: Reimbursement to the DNR for the damage net, whether or not to allow future cutting of the vegetation, thistle treatment options, a maintenance plan, and limiting the trespassing. The board discussed reimbursement from the residents who damaged the nets. Manager Robinson made a motion to pay the \$678 to replace the damaged net and have the staff write a letter to the residents asking for reimbursement. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor. Manager Mostad made a motion to spray the thistles rather than cutting. Manager Robinson seconded it. After discussion the motion was withdrawn. The board felt that the staff should contact Mr. Gettle and review any further cutting. There was considerable discussion on trespassing. Manager Coughlin made a motion to contact the Conservation Officer to enforce the no trespassing. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Adam Hjelm informed the Board that the Stearns County Water Plan has asked the Sauk River Watershed District to put together an estimate to cover the cost for a 2nd Lower Sauk River Water Festival for the 500 children that do not attend a Water Festival. Manager Robinson made a motion to have Adam Hjelm establish a proposal to submit to the Stearns County Water Plan Committee. Manager Hetland seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

The calendar and activity report was reviewed.

The board reviewed State Revolving Funds #05-213. Manager Rettig made a motion to approve SRF #05-213. Manager Kral seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

No Budget Committee Report.

No Nominating Committee Report

No Personnel & Salary Committee Report.

Manager Coughlin recommended that the Board designate an Assistant Administrator that would be accountable when the Administrator is absent. Manager Coughlin made a motion to delegate Starla Arceneau as the Assistant Administrator. Manager Hensley seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

Manager Kuseske gave the Rules Committee Update. The Committee met prior to the meeting to review changes recommended by the Citizen Advisory Committee. Kuseske also suggested that the District look into amending the existing rules to add the NPDES ordinance rules to give the staff guidelines to follow until the new rules are approved. Manager Coughlin made a motion to have the Staff and Attorney come back at the next regular meeting with a recommendation. Manager Robinson seconded it. The motion passed with all in favor.

No Professional Services Committee Report.

Manager Hensley questioned when the District was going to complete the Pay Equity Report. Hensley suggested the District find a person who has completed reports for other Watershed Districts. Manager Robinson said that he will check with the Board of Water and Soil Resources at his next meeting.

Manager Robinson gave the TMDL/Water Quality Committee Report. Jim Klang will be at the next regular meeting to give a 10 minute presentation on pollutant trading.

The staff was excused for the Board Retreat.